

[Mr. K. Narayanan Pandalay.]

Departments have already been drafted and his proposals on the General Administration including the Account Office, Administration of Justice, Police, Education, Industries, Stationery, Controller of Patents and Designs and the Economic Development Board are in course of preparation.

After taking charge of this office Mr. Nilakanta Pillai prepared a set of interrogatories to be answered by the several Heads of Departments, and as he found that the replies received were not either complete or exhaustive, he had to go and inspect some of these offices, examine the registers maintained there and formulate the proposals himself. These were again referred to the Heads of Departments, and on receipt of their replies, he had had to form his opinions.

Besides this, Mr. Nilakanta Pillai had also work in connection with the Legislative Council in the past session and so he was not able to complete the work within the time fixed by the Government. And now that the work has made good progress, it is thought necessary by the Government to continue the work for one and a half months more in order that it might be completed. It is for the purpose of paying the staff of this office that the Government have now come to this House for a supplementary grant of Rs. 450. I therefore beg to move that this grant may be allowed by the House.

PRESIDENT : May I take it that the House allows the motion?

The grant was made.

DEMAND IX.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 20,000 for ameliorating the condition of the under-trial and short-term prisoners. The condition of these prisoners has been the subject of much criticism in this House and elsewhere, and this House is already aware that the Government are anxious to better the condition of these prisoners as much as possible. As I told the House during the last session, it is not possible for the Government to remedy all the objectionable points at once. With the fund, now asked for, it is proposed to provide better clothing and bedding, better feeding for the prisoners and for the proper sanitation of the cells. I do not think that this requires much argument on my part to get the support of the House.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether the Government contemplates a separation of charge from the Police to the District Court? What I mean is this. The under-trial prisoners are now in the custody of the Police who are investigating officers. That is a very vicious practice. Will the Government be pleased to arrange for the separation of the charge of the Police?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Even now, in law, the under-trial prisoners are in the custody

of the Magistrates, though they are in fact guarded by the Police. The change suggested requires a special establishment; and, most probably, special buildings also may be required. This means expenditure. The change cannot be made all at once.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): May I have an idea of the ameliorating measures proposed to be effected?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Bedding will be given to each of the under-trial and short-term prisoners. Arrangements will be made for providing them with clothing, better food and with better vessels for their use. Of course, this is only a rough estimate.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): May I know the number of under-trial prisoners.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is not possible to get at that figure with any degree of accuracy. It may be five hundred or even a thousand.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know the agency which spends the money?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Strictly speaking, it is the Magistrates who ought to spend the money. But the proposals have been made by Mr. Pitt.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Dericolum*): May I know whether Government intend to submit the reformed scheme for the consideration of this House?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): So far as the present proposals are concerned, it will not be submitted to the House again. But if additional funds are required that will undoubtedly be submitted to the House.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether Government will have any objection in allowing representatives of the public to inspect the condition of the prisoners?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is a matter which has to be considered. Even now legal advisers have got right of admission to the prisoners.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will it be possible to provide better accommodation for the prisoners?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Not by means of new buildings; but only, as much as possible by improving the cells.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Does the Law Member propose to rent new buildings?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, not under this expenditure.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House grants the motion?
The grant was made.